

CAPITOL COMPLEX RESTORATION AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION



Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 23, 2007

9:00 a.m. CST

Meeting Locations: This meeting was held via the Dakota Digital Network (DDN). DDN studio locations: Capitol basement, Pierre; SDSMT Room 109, Rapid City; USD Room 204, Vermillion

Attendance: The meeting was called to order and roll call was taken of the commission members. The following members were in attendance: Carla Sahr, Patricia Harding, Tim Engel, Dr. Jim Hansen, Dennis Eisnach (participating via phone), Gary Galyardt (Rapid City DDN site), and John Day (Vermillion DDN site). Excused: Charles Burke. Guests: Tom Farnsworth, City of Pierre; Crystal Lindell, Capital Journal; Tony Mangan, KCCR Radio; Chris Derry, Tom Rounds and Lloyd Johnson represented the Capital Area Soccer Association (CASA). Bureau of Administration (BOA) representatives: Jeff Bloomberg, Commissioner; Steve Stoneback, Deputy Commissioner; and John **Moisan**, Special Projects Coordinator. Gloria Guericke was the recording secretary.

Lights for Hilgers Gulch Soccer Field

Commissioner Bloomberg informed Commission members that, although the agenda is lengthy, most of the listings are informational items. The first item on the agenda is submitted by the Capital Area Soccer Association.

Chris Derry explained that the Capital Area Soccer Association (CASA) would like to install lights on the Hilgers Gulch soccer fields so that the soccer teams can continue playing after sunset.

The plan is to install 6 poles on the east and west ends of the fields. One pole would be located at each corner and one on each side. The poles are approximately 50-60' high. The lights would be screened and aimed downward in order to minimize the lighted area so that it does not affect nearby structures.

Chris noted that the fields were recently redone by the Association and that they look great. Future plans include temporary stands and a trailhead to house bathrooms.

Tom Farnsworth commented that Pierre is the only city in South Dakota without lighted soccer fields. The City is excited about this possibility and is awaiting direction regarding partnership in this project.

Mayor Eisnach said that he supports this project for all the reasons stated. He does not feel these lights would cause a problem as they are located a fair distance from the Capitol Complex and residential area.

Commissioner Bloomberg noted that he had heard concerns about the proposed lights from residents that live near the soccer fields. Chris explained that the lights would be used only once or twice a week, probably on a Friday and/or Saturday.

Tom Rounds explained that the soccer season starts sometime in April or May and ends in September or October. The games go until around 9:00 p.m. This means there would be 2-3 hours of lights for games during the spring and fall months. During the summer months the games usually end before dark.

Chris noted that there are 6 varsity games that are played at home. Three of these varsity games would need lit.

Tom Farnsworth stated that the City's engineering staff recommends a 50' pole height so that the lights can easily be serviced. These lights are comparable in height to the football stadium lights.

Tom referenced the 3-way agreement signed several years ago by the City of Pierre, CASA, and the State. The State allows use of the land, the City assists with maintenance, irrigation and turf maintenance. The Association provides in-kind labor to help offset costs. City electricity is nearby and will be tapped for operating the lights.

Commissioner Bloomberg asked about the costs for installing the light poles. Tom explained that this will be worked out between CASA and the City. The rules and responsibilities will be defined.

Tom discussed a grant the City received through DOT for trail enhancement. The grant is 75% federal funds with 25% to be raised locally. The total could be near a half million dollars. The earlier-referenced trailhead could be located at the tree level near the soccer fields. The trail would go by the pond and then up 4th Street to the housing development. Mayor Eisnach explained that we want to include this part of the City in our trail system. He noted that the soccer field area was not well maintained until the soccer fields were installed. This area now fits in well with the Governor's park.

John Moisan explained that the soccer fields area was originally used to dump sediment from the lake and rubble from the parking lots. It is not a good site for buildings needing any structural integrity.

Commissioner Bloomberg asked if there was a timeframe for discussion on this project. Tom Farnsworth encouraged a decision as soon as possible as their budget comes up in June/July. They are looking at this as a 2008 project.

Lloyd Johnson, president of CASA, noted that they need a decision as soon as possible as they will need to work on financial arrangements.

Carla Sahr asked about the other soccer field locations. Chris replied that there are soccer fields on Pierre Indian Learning Center (PILC) land, but noted that PILC can cancel the use agreement and take back their land at any time. The Gulch sites are used by CASA only. Chris noted that the Gulch soccer fields are located lower than the nearby residential area, so these residents shouldn't be bothered by the lights.

Pat Harding explained that they built their home in the neighborhood adjoining the Gulch because they liked the wildlife and the fact that this area was undeveloped. She noted that the residents in her neighborhood are not pleased about this change. Many have their windows open at night and are not happy about the noise coming from the Gulch area. She added that there are quite a few parties in the tree area near her home.

Tim Engel asked about the appearance of the light towers and Tom Rounds indicated that they are single pole units.

Commissioner Bloomberg informed the Commission members that they have the option today of approving, denying, or deferring a decision until June.

Pat Harding moved and Tim Engel seconded the motion to defer a decision until June. A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting AYE: John Day, Tim Engel, Dr. Hansen, Gary Galyardt, Pat Harding, Carla Sahr. Voting NAY: Mayor Eisnach. The motion passed with majority approval.

Commissioner Bloomberg noted that the item has been deferred to June. The Bureau of Administration will set another meeting to again address this topic.

Artwork Depicting the SD State Capitol

John Moisan explained that we have been contacted by an individual who wants to donate artwork to the Capitol. We have not yet seen the artwork. John asked for guidance from the Commission.

John Day felt that the Capitol is not the appropriate place for people to donate art; it should go to a museum for proper care and display. He referenced the policies put together by the Commission and asked that BOA handle these donation offers accordingly. If we feel an exception needs made, he asked that it be brought before the Commission.

Capitol Centennial Planning

Commissioner Bloomberg explained that the centennial of the laying of the Capitol cornerstone occurs in 2008 and the centennial of the dedication of the Capitol occurs in 2010. He asked the Commission to forward any ideas they may have on how to celebrate these centennials.

John Moisan noted that if it weren't for the Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission, we would not be having this kind of discussion. The guidance of the Commission is the reason the historically restored building is the way it is today. He added that thousands of people in the State have never seen the Capitol, and we hope to draw them in with these celebrations. Some of the celebration events already considered include re-commemorating the cornerstone, antique car shows, a parade, and recognizing people and/or businesses 100 years old.

Tim Engel felt the celebration could be of two components. First, it should be a celebration and, secondly, it could include something more permanent like statuary or a fountain.

John noted that the back door is really the main entrance to the Capitol for most people. He felt that the north entrance area could be made more attractive for the public. Unfortunately, there are drainage issues in this area that have caused problems with past beautification efforts.

John Day and Tim Engel indicated they would both like to serve on John's Centennial committee.

Tree Removal

John Moisan explained that during set-up for Community-State Day last year, a gust of wind removed a large branch from a tree that was past maturity. The Bureau of Administration asked Dr. John Ball, Professor of Forestry at SDSU, to examine our mature trees and, since then, we've been systematically removing the diseased trees that were identified. Trees cut down recently had 2" long grub worms inside eating the decaying wood. John noted that we salvage as much wood as possible from the felled trees and use it as mulch in the gardens on the Capitol Complex. Stump grinders are used to remove the tree stumps. It takes awhile for the stabilizing roots to decay, so replacement trees are not planted until a year or so later. We are limiting the number of replacement trees planted on the Capitol Complex because we presently have too heavy of a canopy, which blocks the growth of young trees and other vegetation located beneath the taller trees.

Phase 4 of the Capitol Foundation Waterproofing Project

Steve Stoneback discussed the multi-phase project where the Capitol footings are being cleaned and waterproofed. This protects the footings and foundation. Phase 4 of this project will extend from the west side of the front steps to the west door. Any bushes near the building will need removed so that dirt can be moved away from the building. The area will be relandscaped by our Buildings and Grounds staff after the waterproofing has been completed. Steve noted that this is a disruptive process, but this phase should be fairly smooth as there are no utilities in the way as with the other phases.

Dr. Hansen asked the estimated length of time for this project and Steve replied it will take approximately two months.

No Smoking Policy

Commissioner Bloomberg discussed how there has been a state law for years that does not allow smoking in public buildings and how this was expanded within the last year when the Governor issued an Executive Order that there is to be no smoking on state property. Exceptions to this include campgrounds, state parks, and the Board of Regents' university system.

He noted that we needed to issue some warnings during the legislative session to people who were unaware of this smoking change, otherwise, the change has been well accepted. Smokers now need to stand on the boulevard sidewalks when they smoke. This has resulted in some littering problems, but we're working on this situation.

Brick Patio

Steve informed the group that the personalized bricks, which were sold as an opportunity for the general public to help with the construction costs of the Residence, have been located on the Residence's front lawn in a patio area at the corner of Washington and Capitol Avenues. He noted that many people have already stopped by to find their brick. Occasionally we are contacted by someone who was unsuccessful in finding their brick. Because of these calls, we had our summer help inventory these bricks and we now have a listing of the brick locations available for those who need assistance in finding their brick.

Memorial Updates

John Moisan stated that the 9/11 memorial, which had been approved by the Beautification Commission, is now located at the corner of Governors Drive and Church Street, in Hilgers Gulch.

The Vietnam War Memorial is installed and we have a small fund set aside for memorials maintenance. John discussed some vandalism that occurred to the lights in the memorial area last weekend.

The thin wire above the WWII memorial is there because seagulls like to sit on the heads. Their droppings are destroying the patina. John explained that the WWII statues need buffed to match the area better; the steaming sulfur off the lake during the winter months is destroying the original patina. John noted that the Commission will be contacted regarding this change.

Commissioner Bloomberg informed the Commission that we have received several requests this past month from folks who want a tree planted and a memorial plaque inserted by the tree. He asked the Commission for direction on these requests.

John Moisan thought that one of the Beautification Commission's policies did not allow plaques. The exception made for plaques was for Peter deHueck, a Cabinet member who passed away from a brain tumor. Steve added that another exception was for the 2 pilots who perished with Governor Mickelson. This tree and plaque is located near the Becker-Hansen building.

After discussion by Commission members, Commissioner Bloomberg noted that the Commission's preference is to continue allowing the donation of a plant, but not a plaque.

Tim Engel asked that the policies be checked to see if "plaques" are included. If not, the Commission needs to adopt a policy at a future meeting.

Gary Galyardt asked if there is a landscaping master plan in order to avoid the "green canopy" problem that John had mentioned earlier. Steve informed the Commission that we have an excellent Grounds crew who know our soils and what trees will survive in the different soil conditions.

Commissioner Bloomberg referenced an earlier conversation he had with the Governor regarding the diseased trees that needed removed. He said that the Governor understood the situation and wants to invest money over the next 4 years to beautify the Capitol Complex grounds. Trees are included in this plan.

Steamline Replacement Project

Steve Stoneback discussed the "big dig" project that Commission members may have noticed between the Anderson and Soldiers & Sailors buildings if they happened to drive by during the winter months. The steam line broke between these 2 buildings. The old pipe was dug out and 80' of new steam line was installed.

4th Floor Remodel

The remodel will occur mainly where the Bureau of Personnel (BOP) was located on 4th floor in the Capitol building. Commissioner Bloomberg explained that BOP staff are now located in the Capitol basement and in the area formerly occupied by the Attorney General and his staff. The legislature will formally take possession of the former BOP space on July 1. John Moisan stated that he met with Jim Fry, director of the Legislative Research Council, regarding the 4th floor remodel. Our role is to work with them to facilitate this project. They will pay for the remodel. We want to ensure that the air handling system, phones, computers, etc., are compatible with our systems since we take care of this space. The initial planning is underway and by this fall remodeling will be underway.

Capitol Cafe

Commissioner Bloomberg explained that up to the week before the legislative session we had no one to run the café, even though they would have the assistance of inmate labor. McClelland's contacted us with their interest shortly before the start of session and provided great food and service during session. Since session, their traffic has dropped dramatically and they cannot continue to stay open. They've informed us that they want to return for the next legislative session and are even considering being open during the Capitol Christmas tree display. Steve added that we look forward to their return.

House and Senate Chair Repair

32 chair bases were replaced on legislators' chairs at the request of the Legislative Research Council.

Capitol HVAC Replacement Project

Steve informed the committee that HVAC replacement is still underway and that the Capitol is a challenging building to modernize.

Governor's Residence.

Steve stated that all is working well at the Residence and that it is nice for the First Family to have a separate living area from the work-related side of the structure.

Dr. Hansen asked if there were any maintenance problems. Steve replied that every now then something will show up, but there are fewer problems than we experienced with the last residence, despite what the recent newspaper article indicated.

Parking Lot and Hill Behind Soldiers & Sailors Building

John Moisan explained that the hill is maintained by the school district and the State. Water off the Soldiers and Sailors building is eroding this hillside. If changes are not made, we will lose our hillside and the school will end up with a lot of dirt in their sports field. Dead and near-dead elm trees are presently holding the hill in place.

Pat Harding asked about plans for the State Library. Commissioner Bloomberg stated that he attended a planning meeting this morning with the Department of Education. A space study is being coordinated by John Moisan with the various agencies regarding their space needs. This study was spurred by the contraction of State Library services and the upcoming purchase of Capitol Lake Plaza. Space will be available at both these sites for state offices.

This fall there will be some remodeling in the library building. Library staff will be located on 1st floor and the 2nd floor will be open and available. Initially, library staff will be located on 2nd floor until some updating is made to the first floor area. In addition, a new roof is needed on this building and parking is an issue. We'll probably have more to update you with in June.

Carla Sahr stated that she lives in a well-built home that was built at the same time as the Capitol. Her home shakes when the filled trains go by during the night and she wondered how these trains affect the Capitol. Steve explained that we have benchmarks in the building and check periodically for movement or any other structural issues. He offered to visit with Capitol Protective Services to see if they've felt any movement in the building from these trains.

Mayor Eismann commented that he was very impressed with all the items on the agenda and that he had no idea there was so much going on at the Capitol Complex. He stated that the City of Pierre appreciates all the work that is done to keep the Capitol Complex attractive.

City – State – Soccer Association Agreement

Steve Stoneback clarified with the Mayor that, offhand, he didn't remember the Soccer fields Memorandum of Understanding being long term as was inferred earlier in the meeting. He thought he remembered it containing a short-term out option. Mayor Eismann concurred.

The Mayor noted that there are a couple federal grants in the works right now and that they may be able to do a recreational area in Pierre if the grants come through. In the meantime, he is in favor of considering CASA's proposal.

John Moisan stated that we will inform the police about the parties in the tree area near Pat's home and ask them to periodically patrol this area.

Commissioner Bloomberg informed the Commission that we will make arrangements for a June meeting.

Pat Harding asked to be updated about the trailhead/bathroom facility at the next meeting.

Tim Engel moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.